

**13.06.16 – On World Blood Donor Day, WHO raises awareness for, and gives thanks to, blood donors all over the globe.**

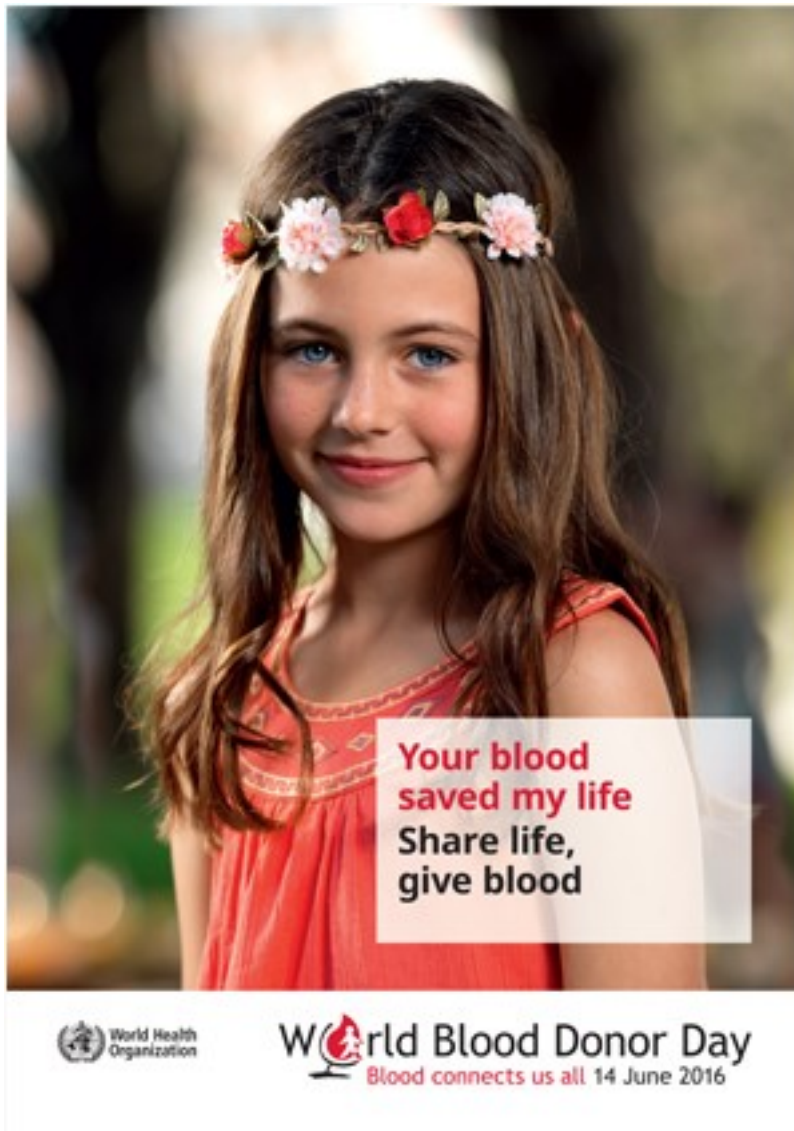
Tomorrow, June 14, will mark [World Blood Donor Day 2016](#) . Blood transfusions help save millions of lives every year from emergency injuries to supporting complex medical procedures. World Blood Day helps encourage voluntary blood donations.



*A blood donation in Sudan. Photo: UNFPA*

This year's theme will be 'Blood connects us all', highlighting how all of us rely on blood for life, and someday may need blood transfusions. Director-General of WHO, Margaret Chan explained; "Although we have many external differences, the same vital blood pumps through all our veins,"

The World Health Organisation's goals are to give global thanks to voluntary donors of blood and create wide public awareness for the need for self-sufficiency in the supply of blood.



*Photo: World Health Organisation.*

Regular voluntary unpaid blood donors are the foundation of a safe blood supply because they are associated with low levels of infection that can be transmitted by transfusions, including HIV and hepatitis viruses.

Today in 2016 only 62 countries get close to 100% of their national blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 34 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors for more than 75% of their blood supply.

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